GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2017
Tribal Students
Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

a) whether the gross enrolment rate among tribal students in the primary school level has declined from 113.2 in 2013-14 to 109.4 in 2015-16 and if so, the details thereof;

b) whether the dropout rate amongtribal students has been alarming and if so, the details thereof;

c) whether the health infrastructure has also been found wanting in tribal areas and if so, the details thereof;

d) whether there is a shortfall of 6796sub-centres, 1267 primary health centresand 309 community health centres in thetribal areas as on 31st March, 2015; and

e) if so, the corrective steps taken by theGovernment in this regard on all India level?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) As per UnifiedDistrict Information System for Education (U-DISE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) among tribal students in the Primary school level was 113.2 in 2013-14 and 109.4 in 2014-15. There has been a fall in overall GER at the primary school level in a majority of the States in the past three years.

(b) In comparison with general category, the dropout rate amongst ST students is higher. As per U-DISE, a comparison of dropout rate for the year 2014-15 is as under :

Level	Overall	STs
Primary	4.13	6.93
Upper Primary	4.03	8.59
Elementary	4.10	7.46
Secondary	17.06	24.68

The average annual drop out rate for Scheduled Tribe Students at primary level in 2013-14 is 7.98 per cent, at elementary level is 8.12 per cent and at secondary level, it is 27.20 per cent. For 2014-15, the average annual drop out rate for Scheduled Tribe Students in primary level is 6.93 per cent, at elementary level is 7.46 per cent and at secondary level, it is 24.68 per cent, which indicates that the dropout rate among tribal students is decreasing.

Some of the main reasons for dropout among ST students are:
(i) Poor economic conditions.
(ii) Children opting to help in household and agricultural work.
(iii) Child Marriage.
(iv) Gender sensitivity prevalent in ST households.

(c) & (d) The health infrastructure needs to be improved in remote/ mountainous / inaccessible parts.As per Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, there is a shortfall of 6796 sub-centres, 1267 primary health centres (PHCs) and 309 community health centres (CHCs) in the tribal areas as on 31st March, 2015.

(e) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) is implementing National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for the betterment of health infrastructure of the rural people including Scheduled Tribes. For STs, there have been significant allocations under Tribal Sub Plan in MoHFW. In 2017-18 the allocation for welfare of STs under NRHM is Rs. 2332.28 cr. This subsumes, apart from health system strengthening, immunization programme, pool for communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, infrastructure maintenance, pilot schemes etc.
Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) have been operationalized under NRHM to provide a range of health care services for populations living in remote, inaccessible, un-served and underserved areas mainly with the objective of taking healthcare service delivery to the doorsteps of these populations. MMUs services are also intended to provide fixed services in areas where there is no infrastructure. There are relaxed population norms for dispersed populations and difficult geographical terrain.
Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is also providing funds under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme (SCA to TSS) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution for the construction of sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs. MoTA has sanctioned Rs.20637.77 lakh during

2016-17 for health sector which also includes creating/additions to infrastructure in tribal areas.
To increase the GER and check the dropout rate, the SarvaShikshaAbhiyan (SSA) provides for free and compulsory elementary education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years including ST children. 109 special focus districts have been identified on the basis of the indicators like out of school children, high gender gap, low retention rate and infrastructure gap as well concentration of Scheduled Tribe population.

Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalayas (KGBVs) scheme provides for residential schools for girls at upper primary level; a minimum of 75% seats are for minority, SC, ST and OBC girls. KGBVs cover 69% ST girls in ST Special Focus Districts.
Based up on National University on Educational Planning and Administration's finding and experience gained in this Ministry, States have been advised to take the following measures to address the issue of drop out:
1. Development of Bilingual Primers containing text both in regional and tribal language but in local official script through Tribal Research Institutes and SarvaSikshaAbhiyan;
2. Content of the primers in the Tribal Cultural context;
3. School vacation to be in synchronization with major tribal festivals;
4. Construction of Girls toilets to check girl drop out, for physical safety, and to address sanitation issues;
5. Expansion of Scope of Education for Tribal children to include sports, physical education, work education, vocational education, Tribal Art, painting, crafts, kitchen gardening, health, hygiene and nutrition, etc. to make the school education useful, relevant and interesting for the children and tribal communities.
6. Promotion of Kitchen garden and Sports
7. Traditional Food (minor millet) in school meals
8. School management to engage teachers to overcome shortage
9. 100% screening of children for Sickle Cell Anaemia/Trait
10. 100% physical enrolment of children
11. Engagement of trained lady health workers as Warden / Asstt. Wardens in girls' hostels

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has also been implementing a number of interventions in education aimed at, inter alia, increasing GER and preventing dropout amongst ST students:
(i) Ashram Schools: Funds are provided to States for making residential schools for STs for primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary level of education.
(ii) ST Hostels: Central assistance is given to States/UTs for construction of new hostel buildings and/or extension of existing hostels.
(iii) Scheme of education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts: 100% assistance is given for running and maintenance of educational complexes for ST girls.
(iv) Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs): EMRSs are set up with capacity of 480 students per school under grants in aid under article 275(1) of the Constitution to States, to provide quality middle and high level education to ST students.
(v) This Ministry also provides Post-Matric Scholarship for ST Students and Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students studying in classes IX & X.
(vii) Funds are provided for recurring expenses for Residential Schools and Non-Residential Schools to Voluntary Agencies working for Scheduled Tribes.

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